

at least one of the bonus events occurring, the at least one of the bonus events being associated with one from the plurality of players;
providing to the one from the plurality of players an option to select to advance at least one tier the player bonus level of the one from the plurality of players;
receiving a selection of the option to select to advance at least one tier; and
if the one from the plurality of players advances to the prize level, generating a random prize for the one from the plurality of players.--

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--23. (Newly added) The method of claim 22, wherein initiating the play of the card game includes dealing the plurality of cards, and wherein the at least one of the bonus events occurring comprises dealing the one from the plurality of players a preselected card from the plurality of cards.--

--24. (Newly added) The method of claim 23, wherein providing to the one from the plurality of players an option to select to advance at least one tier comprises:
providing the one from the plurality of players an option to play the preselected card in the auxiliary game to advance at least one tier.--

--25. (Newly added) The method of claim 24, wherein providing to the one from the plurality of players an option to select to advance at least one tier further comprises:

providing an option for the one from the plurality of players to select to use the preselected one from the plurality of cards for the play of the card game.—

--26. (Newly added) The method of claim 22, wherein initiating the play of the card game includes dealing from the plurality of cards, and wherein the at least one of the bonus events occurs at least once upon dealing all of the plurality of cards.--

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--27. (Newly added) The method of claim 22, wherein generating the random prize includes selecting the random prize from a plurality of predetermined prizes.—

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--28. (Newly added) The method of claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of predetermined prizes has an associated probability of selection.—

--29. (Newly added) The method of claim 22, wherein generating a random prize further comprises receiving an input from the one from the plurality of players prior to generating the random prize.—

--30. (Newly added) The method of claim 29, further comprising a dealer dealing the cards, and wherein generating a random prize further comprises receiving a dealer input from the dealer prior to generating the random prize.--

--31. (Newly added) A device for controlling progress in an auxiliary incentive game played by a plurality of players simultaneously with a card game played with a plurality of cards by the plurality of players, the card game including at least one card game bonus event, the auxiliary game including providing an option for one from the plurality of players to select to receive a bonus point in the auxiliary game upon occurrence of the at least one card game bonus event, such that each of the plurality of players has a number of bonus points, and wherein one from the plurality of players is provided a prize upon accumulating a predetermined number of bonus points, the device comprising:

a plurality of player interface units, each of the plurality of player interface units associated with one from the plurality of players, and each of the plurality of player interface units including a display element to display the number of bonus points accumulated by the associated player; and

a controller operatively coupled to each of the plurality of player interface units, the controller controlling the display element of each of the plurality of player interface units.—

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--32. (Newly added) The device of claim 31, wherein the occurrence of the at least one card game bonus event comprises a preselected card being dealt from the plurality of cards to the one from the plurality of players--

--33. (Newly added) The device of claim 32, wherein providing an option for one from the plurality of players to select to receive a bonus point in the auxiliary game comprises:

providing the one from the plurality of players an option to play the preselected card in the auxiliary game to advance at least one tier.--

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--34. (Newly added) The device of claim 33, wherein providing an option for one from the plurality of players to select to receive a bonus point in the auxiliary game further comprises:

providing an option for the one from the plurality of players to select to use the preselected one from the plurality of cards for the play of the card game.—

--35. (Newly added) The device of claim 33, wherein the card game includes at least one preventive event, the at least one preventive event preventing the one from the plurality of players selecting to use the preselected card in the auxiliary game.—

--36. (Newly added) The device of claim 35, wherein the card game includes a bust event, and wherein the at least one preventive event includes the preselected card triggering a bust event.--

--37. (Newly added) The device of claim 31, wherein each of the plurality of player interface units further comprises a player control element, the player control element including a selector, such that a selection of the prize is receivable from the associated one from the plurality of players.—

--38. (Newly added) The device of claim 31, wherein the prize is selected from a plurality of predetermined prizes, the device further comprising a prize display operatively coupled to the controller, the prize display displaying the plurality of predetermined prizes.—

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--39. (Newly added) The device of claim 38, further comprising a randomizer operatively coupled to the controller, the randomizer randomly selecting the prize from the plurality of predetermined prizes.—

--40. (Newly added) The device of claim 39, wherein each of the plurality of predetermined prizes has an associated probability of selection.—

--41. (Newly added) The device of claim 31, further comprising a dealer interface unit coupled to the controller.--

--42. (Newly added) The device of claim 41, wherein the dealer interface unit includes a display for displaying data regarding the auxiliary game.—

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concl.* --43. (Newly added) The device of claim 37, further comprising a dealer interface unit coupled to the controller, the dealer interface unit further comprising a dealer selector for authorizing the associated one from the plurality of players to select the prize.--

~~Please cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.~~

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for taking time to meet with the Applicants' representative regarding this matter on May 6, 1999.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks. A petition to extend time for response to the Office Action to within the third extended month accompanies this response.

By the foregoing amendment, new claims 22-43 have been added, and claims 1-21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 22-43 are currently pending.

In the Office Action mailed November 9, 1998, the Examiner objected to the specification for failing to provide antecedent basis for claims 8 and 21. Applicants respectfully note that claims 8 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. To the extent the objection is still applicable to the claims as currently pending, Applicants